

## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

# MINUTES

November 12-13, 2014

### Regular Meeting

Hampton Inn Suites Barstow  
2710 Lenwood Road  
Barstow, CA 92311

### Board Members Present

Amy Horne, Ph.D., Chair, Truckee  
Kimberly Cox, Vice Chair, Helendale  
Keith Dyas, Rosamond  
Don Jardine, Markleeville  
Peter C. Pumphrey, Bishop  
Eric Sandel, Truckee

### Board Member Absent

### Legal Counsel

Kimberly Niemeyer, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board

### State Board Staff Present

Ester Tracy, Environmental Scientist, Office of Public Participation

### Regional Board Staff Present

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer  
Lauri Kemper, Assistant Executive Officer  
Mike Plaziak, Sup. Engineering Geologist  
Douglas Smith, Sup. Engineering Geologist  
Cindi Mitton, Senior WRCE  
Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist  
Lisa Dernbach, Senior Engineering Geologist  
Thomas Browne, WRCE  
Mike Coony, WRCE  
Omar Pacheco, Engineering Geologist  
Ghasem Pour-Ghasemi, WRCE  
Christina Velasquez, Engineering Geologist  
Todd Battey, Engineering Geologist

Richard Booth, Senior Engineering Geologist  
Anne Holden, Engineering Geologist  
Shannon Utley, Engineering Geologist  
Jan Zimmerman, Engineering Geologist  
Rebecca Phillips, Staff Services Analyst  
Bill Muir, Engineering Geologist  
John Morales, WRCE  
Jay Cass, Senior WRCE  
Mary Dellavalle, Environmental Scientist  
Doug Cushman, Senior WRCE  
Bruce Warden, Environmental Scientist  
Caren Patterson, Scientific Aid  
Brianna Bergen, Engineering Geologist

**REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, November 12, 2014- 2:30 p.m.**

To view the full Agenda and listen to the audio of this meeting [CLICK HERE](#)

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Horne called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. on November 12, 2014, and introduced Board Members.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, introduced Legal Counsel, State Water Board and Water Board staff.

**1. PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

2. Minutes of the Regular Meetings of September 10 and 11, 2014, held in in Barstow, CA.
  - **Motion:** Moved by Mr. Jardine, seconded by Mrs. Cox, and **unanimously carried** to adopt the Minutes as presented. Mr. Sandal abstained.

Click here to view the adopted [September 10 and 11, 2014](#) minutes.

**REPORTS****3. Reports by Water Board Chair and Board Members**

Mr. Pumphrey reported on his participation at the Inyo/Mono IRWIMP meeting held in June. They will have a follow-up workshop in December which will be held for three days. The State Board and various Regions have been invited for the second half of the workshop. Mr. Pumphrey will be attending this workshop and will report on it at a later date.

Mr. Pumphrey informed the Board on the next Sierra Waterworks Workgroup Water Summit one day workshop. The theme is Protecting Our Water and is scheduled on August 17, 2015 at Kings Beach.

Chair Horne reported on WQCC Meeting which was held in Sacramento in October. Tentative dates scheduled for the next WQCC meeting for the week of Oct 26 – Oct 30. The Board agreed to have the meeting set for the beginning of the week.

WQCC meeting will be held differently next year. Chair Horne asked for ideas from the Board on some of the issues they would be interested in. Ideas so far: groundwater policy from DWR; Water recycling and reuse climate change; permit streamlining; and roles and responsibility of regional board and state board.

Chair Horne reported on the reports that were prepared by the Water Board staff for the WQCC. She thanked the staff for the excellent work on all the reports.

#### 4. Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, presented the [October Written Report](#) and gave additional updates on:

- a. *2015 Water Board meeting Schedule and 2015 report on status of standing items.*
- b. *Grazing Regulatory*
- c. *First GRAP listening session was on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Next one will be held on Nov 14th.*
- d. *PCE Pollution in South Lake Tahoe*
- e. *Tahoe Toms*
- f. *Upper Echo Lakes Fuels Reduction Project*
- g. *Nearshore Water Pollution*
- h. *Marijuana*
- i. *New Employees*
- j. *Victorville Office – Move*

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### 5. Overview of the Antelope Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan

Power point presentations were presented by Jan Zimmerman, Engineering Geologist and Erika Bensch, Civil Engineer, Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, representing the IRWMP Group. The Board asked questions and gave direction to staff.

Board members provided several recommendations to the Group regarding adaptive management strategies (recommendation no. 3 of the presentation): (1) the plan should not be static, rather the plan should be a living document and revised over time as new data are collected; (2) the term “water quality management goal” is misleading, and swapping the word “goal” for “limit” may be more appropriate in the context of the plan; and (3) the monitoring network is key to managing water quality in basins. The Group was encouraged to fill the data gaps and incorporate new wells into the monitoring network where data are limited or unavailable.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, summarized the Board members direction to staff on recommendation nos. 4 and 5 of the presentation (recommendations 5 and 6 of the Staff Report). In lieu of recommendation no. 4, staff will review the environmental document and gather any existing water quality data from the project proponent. Staff will then report back to the Board the findings of that investigation late Spring 2015 in the Executive Officer's report. In lieu of recommendation no. 5, staff will report back to the Board the state policies and regulations as they pertain to recharge projects Summer 2015 in the Executive Officer's report.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Pumphrey – seconded by Mr. Dyas and **unanimously carried** to accept staff's recommendations 1, 2, and 3 to accept the Antelope Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan and send a letter of acceptance to the IRWM Group.

## 6. Status Report on Bacteria Sampling and Analysis

The Board heard presentations from Richard Booth, Senior Engineering Geologist and Bruce Warden, Environmental Scientist. The presentations provided the Board members with:

- Background on the current bacteria water quality objectives
- State Board's efforts for bacteria water quality revisions statewide
- Lahontan Water Board staff's preliminary evaluation of bacteria data in select waterbodies
- The next steps and a schedule for proposed bacteria water quality objective revisions

The Board asked questions and gave direction to staff with the following:

A question and answer session followed the presentations. Board members' comments included:

Ms. Cox asked why the standard of 20 fecal coliform was set to begin with. Mr. Booth answered that, in 1975, the 20 fecal coliform value was considered indicative of wildlife background value. The Board desired a protective standard.

On the question of intentional consumption of untreated water - there was consensus among Board members Mrs. Cox, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Dyas, and Mr. Sandel that the public should not expect to drink water in the backcountry without treatment. Similarly, the four Board members believe the Board should not support an expectation that drinking untreated water is safe by designating an intentional consumption use with the existing 20 fecal coliform bacteria standard. Mr. Pumphrey discussed the difficulty in determining areas where drinking untreated water would be safe. Dr. Horne referenced an expectation of Europeans that stream water in the Alps is safe to drink.

On the question relaxing Lahontan's bacteria standard – there was general agreement that it may be appropriate to have a bacteria standard less protective than the current standard in some areas – based on scientific information and on a case-by-case basis. The Board supported staff's efforts to continue investigating bacteria concentrations and sources throughout our region.

Dr. Horne addressed State Board's effort to revise the bacteria standard state-wide. She requested that staff forward the information presented during this item to State Board staff and to express that the Lahontan Board feels it is very important to maintain the high quality of our waters.

*Note: The Board will recess for dinner from approximately 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.*

### **REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Horne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 12, 2014, and introduced Board Members.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, introduced Legal Counsel, State Water Board and Water Board staff.

## 7. PUBLIC FORUM

- Lyn Schrader, English Teacher - Barstow High School  
A research project for high school seniors regarding Hinkley and PG&E is scheduled for December 5th. They will hold a public presentation of the posters to the community. Ms. Schrader invited the Board and staff to attend their presentation.

## 8. Workshop – Cleanup and Abatement Order Discussion. Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Hinkley Compressor Station

Chair Horne addressed the public regarding the workshop process and presented a presentation. She went over the recap of the enforcement orders from 2008 and forward. Chair introduced Esther Tracy from State Board. Ms. Tracy went over the ground rules for the workshop.

The Board heard presentations from Ms. Lauri Kemper, Assistant Executive Officer; Mr. Kevin Sullivan, and Ms. Margaret Gentile both representing PG&E. The Board asked questions and gave direction to staff.

### Public Comments:

- Lester White, Hinkley resident directed questions to Kevin Sullivan with PG&E "At the last meeting (Sept. 10 in Barstow) I asked the question on what is the highest levels of arsenic in the in-situ (remediation operations)," "It's been roughly three months now. I feel like we need an answer to how much is there. I'm also wondering what the uranium levels in the in-situ are?" Mr. White also asked what PG&E was prepared to do if arsenic and uranium escapes from the plume area. Mr. Sullivan reminded Lester that his report for this agenda item was just on the cleanup of Chromium 6. Mr. White stated "I have a lot of concerns and the community has a lot of concerns about arsenic getting into their wells," "What are the levels?" Mr. Sullivan stated that he didn't have the levels and they are published in the documents online.
- Larry Griep, Hinkley resident – He suggests that there should be more monitoring wells and cleanup towards the west of Hinkley and they should be tested for arsenic and manganese.
- Daron Banks, Hinkley resident – Daron Banks asked Kevin Sullivan to explain the bio above-ground treatment that was shown on his presentation. He also stated that there are residents with wells that are above 3.1 chromium outside of the plume area.
- Kimberly Niemeyer, Office of Chief Counsel wanted to clarify what Order arsenic and manganese will be addressed in? Lauri Kemper informed her that there are three different Orders: Agricultural Treatment WDR, In-Situ Treatment IRZ, and a new CAO which will specifically address chromium.
- Ann Holden, Engineering Geologist, South Lake Tahoe – Asked if the sentry wells proposed for monitoring in lieu of the Hinkley neighborhood are multi depth or single depth wells and what is the sampling period. Margaret Gentile will find out about the depth. The sampling period is Semi Annual.

9. **Status Report on Activities Concerning Chromium Contamination from Pacific Gas & Electric, Hinkley Compressor Station**

Ms. Lisa Dernbach, Senior Engineering Geologist; Mr. Kevin Sullivan representing PG&E; and Mr. Ian Webster, IRP Manager, presented status updates on recent efforts and activities in the Hinkley community and answered Board questions.

Public Comment:

- Daron Banks, Hinkley resident – Mr. Banks stated that the people of Hinkley have lost their trust in PG&E and so when they get the opportunity, they leave and sell out. The community would like to find the truth and if PG&E does their job and cleans up Hinkley, then they can move on.

**Regular Meeting Continued: Thursday, November 13, 2014 - 8:30 a.m.**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Horne called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on November 13, 2014, and introduced Board Members.

Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, introduced Legal Counsel, State Water Board and Water Board staff.

10. **CLOSED SESSION**

None.

11. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Logan Olds, VVWRA – Informed the Board that the bids are in for VVWRA's two sub-regional WWTPs. VVWRA will be issuing a notice to precede construction in late January or February 2015.

12. **WORKSHOP – Climate Change**

The public heard presentations from:

Dr. Dan Cayan, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and USGS – “Climate Variability and Change and California Water”

John Izbicki, - USGS, “Applied climate change and sustainability: groundwater recharge and chromium VI remediation near Hinkley, CA”

Max Gomberg, Climate Change Advisor, SWRCB – “Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Policy: State Vision and Framework”

Lauri Kemper, Assistant Executive Officer, Water Board – “Tips for Workshop”

After the presentations were given, the workshop attendees (about 60 total) convened into ten small groups and brainstormed ideas for Water Board climate change adaptation. Each of the small group facilitators reported out the priority ideas to the larger group.

Doug Smith, Supervising Engineering Geologist, informed the workshop attendees that the results from this brainstorm session will be compiled with the results from the January 15, 2015, workshop and will be posted online for public availability. Also, all powerpoint presentations will be posted online at the Water Board's climate change webpage.

Dr. Amy Horne, Water Board Chair, thanked the workshop attendees for their participation and input.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on November 13, 2014.

Prepared by:  for \_\_\_\_\_ Adopted: \_\_January 14, 2015\_\_  
Rebecca Phillips, Staff Services Analyst